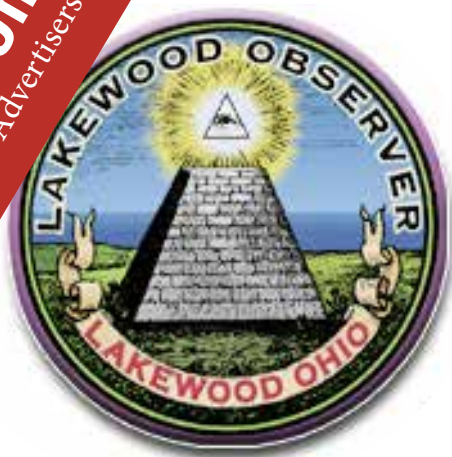


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"It is not the strongest or the most intelligent who will survive but those who can adapt to change." - Charles Darwin

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 16, Issue 10, MAY 20, 2020

## Cuyahoga County Coronavirus Response Update

by Dale Miller

As we are nearing two months of isolation from the coronavirus, it seemed to be a good time to provide an update on County efforts to fight the virus. My highest priority is to help the County become more effective in saving lives, protecting health, and preventing the spread of COVID-19 in the county. My second priority is helping businesses and social/recreational activities safely reopen. My third priority is dealing with the impacts of the crisis on county finances.

County Focuses on High Risk Populations

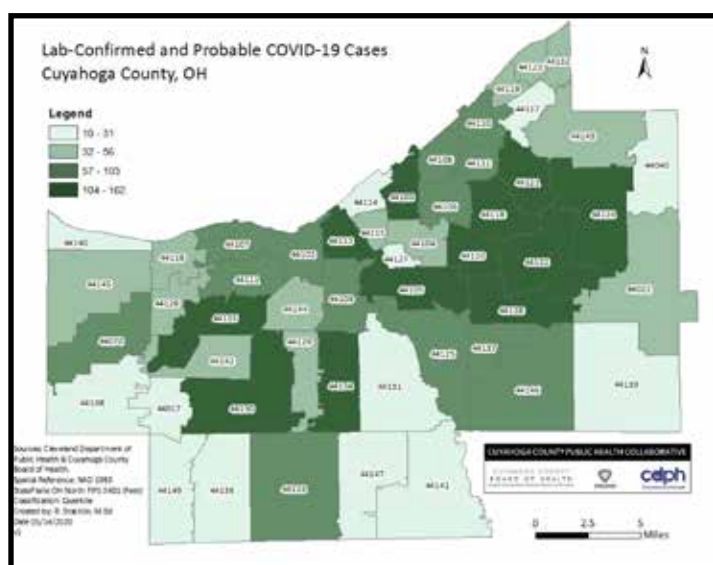
The county is focusing on preventing and containing the spread of coronavirus in high risk congregate settings, including primarily nursing homes, senior centers, devel-

opmental disability centers, group homes, jails and detention centers, and the homeless population. As the economy starts to reopen we will also have to focus on large manufacturing facilities.

We are working in each

of these settings to facilitate greater social distancing and to provide protective equipment and sanitizer. Through collaboration among the judges, County Prosecutor, County Defender, and County Sheriff,

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## COVID-19 From A Child's Viewpoint

by Cole Hammer

These times have certainly been scary, everything in most of everyone's lives has been affected. People who get groceries are at risk, people who go to the hospital for a personal need are at risk, everything we do is a risk. Things that you

may have taken for granted are now dangerous.

I used to see my grandfather and grandma every Tuesday, but I can't do that anymore because I could potentially hurt them. Symptoms of this worldwide pandemic can appear 3-13

days after exposure, so I could expose them without knowing what I'm doing. Seeing friends went from a fun task to a scary one, and so did seeing any stranger on the streets. Thoughts like: "Do they have the virus?" or "Should I cross the street?" fly across your head when you see somebody. Holidays like Easter have been changed, schools have been shut down, lots of things that were normal activities, are now non-existent.

The social isolation has taken its toll on many families, and a large number of school children like me. In school, you get to see your friends every day, now you have to call them, or connect with them some other way. Teachers must have meetings online with students, and with fellow teachers, which can be frustrating because it isn't the same as being together in-person.

Changes have been happening fast, but everyone is so caught up in these changes that sometimes, we forget to adapt.

Being social is part of human nature, and when that

continued on page 9



## LA Pursuing Historic District Designation For Stretch Of Detroit Avenue

by Matt Bixenstine

LakewoodAlive is excited to announce that the designation of Downtown Lakewood as a National Register Historic District is moving along.

The written nomination has been prepared and submitted to the Ohio His-

toric Preservation Office (OHPO) in Columbus. The National Register of Historic Places is America's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects deemed worthy of preservation for

continued on page 9



## Good Work Lakewood High Academic Challenge Team

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to the LHS Academic Challenge team of seniors Evan Bell, Aidan Bohac, and Tristan Rumsey for finishing as runners up in the Nordson Academic Challenge competition!

The Rangers finished second to Brunswick High

School. Lakewood's team earlier in the season had won its episode versus Valley Forge and Garfield Heights high schools, earning the season's top score at the time. Way to go, Rangers!

The team is advised by LHS teachers Peter Petto and Bob Sedlak.

**Sorry, Academic Challenge Team. We ran this article last issue with a typo in the headline from the Asst. Publisher. These students worked too hard to end up like that. Good work everyone.**  
**Asst. Publisher - Jim O'Bryan**

## Sweet Designs Chocolatier Window Shopping Option

by Carly Moran

"We are excited to launch Sweet Designs Window Shopping with the installation of our full menu in our storefront windows, says Ines Rehner, founder and owner." In addition to our online shipping and curbside pickup, we can now serve customers at a safe distance, right from our front door. You simply make your selections outside, and we will prepare them and bring them right to you."

"While we're aware of Ohio's small business reopening dates per Governor DeWine, we have decided to take a more conservative approach," adds Rehner.

In addition to this new service, Rehner says Sweet Designs will treat customers with free (individually packaged) samples for all walk-up and curbside pick-up orders and will strive to give customers the Sweet Designs experience they have come to know and love.

"For over 25 years, we have been delighted to serve our customers and meet all of their



chocolate needs, Rehner adds. "In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, our mission has not changed."

Sweet Designs Chocolatier (16100 Detroit Avenue Lakewood, OH, 44107; www.sweetdesigns.com) creates handmade gourmet chocolate confections for those who appreciate the fine art of chocolate making. Creamy truffles, salted caramels, organic and vegan chocolates and much more, and they are all made on-site by Sweet Designs' chocolatiers.

**Carly Moran is the General Manager of Sweet Designs Chocolatier in Lakewood.**



# Council's Page

Since being elected as your Ward 2 City Councilmember, I have written a weekly newsletter to keep you informed. The View from Ward 2 is delivered to subscribers' inboxes every Monday morning. For those of you who do not want to clutter your inbox, I am now providing a version for the Lakewood Observer. Below is a combination of Issue #17 and Issue #18. They cover the weeks of April 27th and May 4th.

If you are interested in subscribing to the newsletter please visit <https://mailchi.mp/shachner-forlakewood/newsletter>. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to e-mail me at Jason.Shachner@lakewoodoh.net or call me at (216) 714-2150.

## City Council Meeting

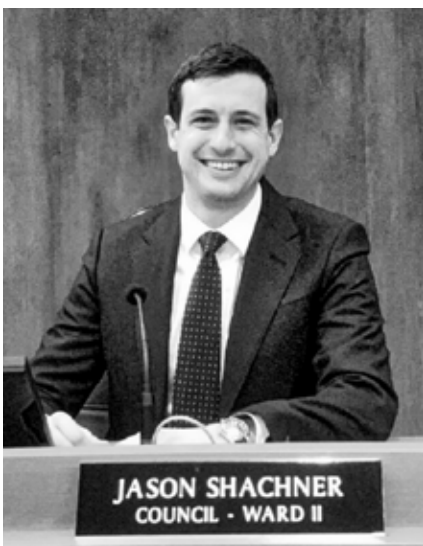
At the City Council Meeting held on May 4th, Mayor George requested that we approve an amendment to the FY 2020 Action Plan that would transfer the Community Development Block Grant funds for Madison Park Lighting Improvements and Clifton Prado Park Improvements to the Kauffman Park Improvements project. This is a total transfer of \$85,000 and could potentially reduce the project's Capital budget from \$250,000 to \$165,000. The Clifton Prado Park Improvements and the Madison Park Lighting Improvements can, and will likely, occur next year. Council approved the amendment at a subsequent Emergency Council Meeting.

## Housing, Planning, & Development Committee Meeting & Outdoor Dining

The bulk of the May 4th Housing, Planning, & Development Committee meeting was focused on the Cove Church project. The Cove Church Project is a \$4 million project that will convert Cove Church into an intergenerational community center and provide much needed space for our Department of Human Services.

Prior to the meeting, Mayor George informed Council that she is considering delaying the project due to the uncertain economic conditions. During the meeting, Council and Mayor George expressed their support for the project. We had a robust discussion about the project's funding sources and whether delaying the project would cost more in the long run or assist Lakewood's financial status in the near term. We learned that we are ahead of schedule on the project and the necessary

## by Jason Shachner Councilman Ward 2



asbestos removal will still occur this year. This project shows our commitment to our Department of Human Services that is integral to the health of Lakewood.

Towards the end of the meeting I spoke about the need to reduce barriers for restaurants to receive conditional use permits that would allow them to offer outdoor dining during the pandemic. Restaurants are "reopening" beginning on May 15th and must follow social distancing guidelines, including ensuring that patrons remain six feet apart when dining unless there is a physical barrier between parties. We can increase dining space available in Lakewood's restaurants by expanding outdoor dining capacity, as various other cities have done by relaxing permitting requirements and allowing outdoor dining to expand onto sidewalks and parking lots, and into streets.

At last Thursday's Planning Commission Meeting, I sought input on this issue at last Thursday's Planning Commission meeting, and we had a thorough discussion about what requirements can be relaxed. I drafted a resolution that will authorize the Planning Commission to waive or modify certain requirements for restaurants to receive a temporary conditional use permit for outdoor dining. This will provide bars and restaurants greater flexibility in creating safe dining experiences that comply with social distancing requirements. I anticipate that this resolution will pass and go into effect prior to Memorial Day.

## Face Mask Requirements

The Rules & Ordinances Committee discussed whether Lakewood should mandate the wearing of face masks at local businesses. Patty Ryan,

President of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, shared that the local business community is split on this issue. We debated if we should create an ordinance that would subject people to a fine if they refuse to wear a mask after a business owner notifies them that masks are required in the store. We concluded that each individual business owner should decide whether they will require their customers to wear a face covering. There is not, and will most likely not be, a face covering mandate in Lakewood. Additionally, no specific ordinance needs to be developed because a customer that does not comply with a business owner's face covering requirement can be charged with criminal trespass.

## Finance Committee Meeting

At the Finance Committee meeting held on April 27th, the City provided an update on its rental relief program for small businesses. We learned that, as of April 27th, 97 checks have been sent out totaling approximately \$155,000. The City has stopped accepting applications and hopes to be able to provide additional relief in the future if necessary.

## Jewish Elected Officials of Cuyahoga County Meeting

I recently had the privilege of joining the Jewish Elected Officials

of Cuyahoga County. This group was created to provide educational opportunities, to foster regional collaboration, and to share experiences and issues that are important to members' constituencies. You may be interested to know that I am the only member that is representing the Westside! We discussed the challenges that our communities are facing during this pandemic and how each city is handling them. I look forward to attending more meetings in the future.

## Census 2020

The 2020 Census is still happening! However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Census Bureau's field operations are postponed and the deadline for counting is extended. I highly encourage you to complete the census now to avoid having someone knocking on your door to follow-up and to make sure that everyone in Lakewood is counted. The Census is important for our community and relies on your participation. For more information or to respond to the Census, please visit <https://2020census.gov/>.

*Jason Shachner is the Ward 2 Lakewood City Councilmember. He is currently serving as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in the Lake County Prosecutor's Offices' Criminal Division. He makes his home in Lakewood with his wife, Michelle, and their 13-year-old shepherd mix, Tessie.*

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by Meg Ostrowski

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## Upcoming Submission Deadline

May 29, 2020  
June 12, 2020

## Publish Date

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June 17, 2020

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State Of Ohio

# State Senator Nickie J. Antonio Holds Virtual Town Hall

by Nickie Antonio

Last week, state Senator Nickie J. Antonio (D-Lakewood) hosted a virtual town hall to provide Covid-19 updates to her constituents. She was joined by Cuyahoga County Board of Health Commissioner Terry Allan and state Representatives, including Representative Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood).

The legislators and Commissioner Allan discussed how their offices have been working to help the people in Northeast Ohio during this unprecedented pandemic. Each legislator highlighted different issues that Ohioans are dealing with including small businesses, keeping Ohioans safe, helping seniors, K-12 education, election safety, and unemployment.

Senator Antonio started the Town Hall by condemning recent anti-Semitic statements made by a Republican Senator and increased incidents of hate and discrimination directed to Ohioans who share Chinese, Asian-American or Asian Pacific Islander heritage.

“It is so important for Ohioans to come together as a community during this crisis. Check on your neighbors, reach out to family members, see if there is someone who may need your help. I know this situation is scary, but there is never an acceptable time



to be racist, hateful or anti-Semitic,” Antonio said.

Antonio is proud of community members who are going above and beyond at this time, like Western Reserve Distillers, a Lakewood brewery that started producing hand sanitizer in light of COVID-19. Legislators aim to get Ohio businesses, like Western Reserve Distillers, and industries back to business as usual, but recognize the need for safety protocols like social distancing, testing and contact tracing, especially in high-risk places.

“We have been doing targeted testing with our preventive medicine physicians in high-risk places like nursing homes, correctional facilities, homeless shelters, adult care homes [and] a range of other congregate settings,” Commissioner Allan said about the need to increase testing throughout Cuyahoga County. “We are working to address these hot spots by detecting them through testing and suppressing outbreaks to prevent further community spread.”

Representative Skindell discussed the importance of funding local governments saying, “From Lakewood to Cleveland to Brook Park, all over, they [our local communities] are losing a significant amount of money... they pay the wages and healthcare benefits for our police officers, our firefighters, our first responders. We need to make sure those local communities get the funds that are needed to pay those salaries and wages.”

Senator Antonio’s office has fielded many constituent cases regarding economic adversity since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. These cases include connecting constituents with Ohio Jobs and Family Services after they’ve faced technical issues and setbacks


for weeks and supporting small businesses by connecting them with assistance opportunities.

“Just know that we are all working for you,” Antonio concluded. “You deserve us to work for you... remember that while we’re dealing with Covid-19, there are a lot of other things that are contagious, such as kindness, compassion and reaching out to the people around you so they know you care. We are all in this together, Ohio!”

Members reiterated their commitment to their constituents in Cuyahoga County as well as Ohioans across the state. For Antonio, this includes several legislative priorities related to COVID-19. Antonio is a primary sponsor on and Senate Bill 255, which would protect vulnerable Ohioans by allowing video cameras in nursing homes and SB 297, a moratorium on evictions, as well as legislation to aid nonprofit unemployment issues.

*The entire virtual town hall can be viewed here. Senator Antonio encourages constituents to contact her office at 614-466-5123 or antonio@ohiosenate.gov for additional questions, concerns or assistance, or Ohio’s COVID-19 hotline 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (18334275634).*

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Education

# One Million Acts Of Kindness Duo Stops By To Thank Hospice Staff

by Laurie Henrichsen

Lakewood resident Bob Votruba and his dog Bogart are on a mission to spread joy throughout the area through their organization, One Million Acts of Kindness. Recently, they visited David Simpson Hospice House and Hospice of the Western Reserve Headquarters to thank staff for providing compassionate care during the COVID-19 crisis in our community.

Votruba began the organization with the personal goal of performing one million acts of kindness during his lifetime. “A goal for each person to individually perform one million acts of kindness in their life – can you imagine a greater goal for one’s life?” he posits on the organization’s website. “It is a constant mind-set of kindness every day of your life for the next fifty-five years. Doing for others and kindness in your heart for everyone. It is my wish that you will dedicate your life to a charity... finding the passion in your heart for



Bob Votruba and his dog Bogart

something or someone in need.”

A big “thank you” to Bob and Bogart for lifting spirits and brightening everyone’s day! You can follow Bob’s and Bogart’s travels and their many acts of kindness on Facebook.

# Far West Center Mental Health Is Here To Help Lakewood With Changes

by Denise Ayres

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed daily life for everyone living in Lakewood and all over the world. Changes came so quickly and most times without warning. Concerns for our safety, health and the health of our loved ones has added emotional pressures. Stress, worry, anxiety, and depression can overwhelm any of us at any time. It is very important to keep in mind that there is help and mental health services available for residents of Lakewood at Far West Center.

Far West Center, located on the Health Campus of St. John Medical Center, serves residence of western Cuyahoga County. Our agency provides counseling and psychiatry for persons who have or may be at-risk for mental health problems. Far West Center provides expert guidance, treatment, and support to regain well-being and rebuild coping skills for these overwhelming times and also for everyday life. Mental Health Treatment works and is only a phone call away.

We understand that there has been many unexpected changes in employment for citizens of Lakewood. Far West Center is funded by the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County and provides men-

someone’s ability to pay. Medicaid and insurance coverage is also accepted. Our agency provides mental health assessment, counseling, Psychiatry, medication management, Case Management, The Compeer Friendship Program, and recovery groups. For your health, safety, and convenience most assessments and treatment services can be provided by telehealth. Telehealth is the use of phone or video technology for your health care.

Far West Center services are available to help improve the quality of lives, improve family relationships, and strengthen the community. If you or someone you care about needs help with managing stressors, depression, anxiety, or mental illness please call 440-835-6212, Extension 230. There is no need to wait because Far West Center is open for services and will provide help to rebuild one’s ability to cope.

You can send email inquiries to Far West Center at: intake@farwestcenter.com.

Denise Ayres is a LSW is a recovery program coordinator and Compeer Program Coordinator at Far West Center. Far West Center is a non profit community mental health services agency for adults living in Lakewood and cities in western Cuyahoga County.

# Imagine Your Story: Lakewood Public Library Summer Reading Club 2020

by Julie Strunk

Monday, May 25, 2020 to Monday, August 10, 2020

Do you need a break from your everyday life? Then Imagine Your Story during the Lakewood Public Library’s summer reading challenge. Choose the books you want to read and go at your own pace while collecting digital badges and/or stickers along the way to help you reach age-appropriate assigned goals. Read or listen to thirty books if you are a child up to entering kindergarten; read twenty minutes per day for a total of ten hours if you are a student entering kindergarten through fifth grade; read thirty hours if you are a student entering sixth through twelfth grade. A special reward awaits those who complete their age-appropriate goals by Monday, August 10, 2020.

Register online starting Monday, May 25, 2020 at [lakewoodpubliclibrary.org](http://lakewoodpubliclibrary.org).

# Lakewood Residents Earn Medical Degrees

by Jim Phillips

Two Lakewood residents were among the students who received doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) degrees from Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine at the college’s April 18 degree conferral.

Anya E. Hurley is the child of Keith and Nora Hurley of Lakewood. In 2013 Dr. Hurley earned a B.S. in pre-medicine from Lake Erie College, and is a 2009 graduate of Lakewood High School. After graduation, Dr. Hurley will begin a residency in internal medicine at Norton Community Hospital in Norton, Va.

Jiewen Li is the child of Yunyan Lin and YanFang Li of Cleveland. In 2015 Dr. Li earned a bachelor's degree in health and rehabilitation sciences from The Ohio State University, and

is a 2011 graduate of Lakewood High School. After graduation, Dr. Li will begin a Internship in diagnostic radiology at Summa Health in Akron, followed by a residency at the University of Cincinnati.

The 2020 graduating class was the 41st to graduate from the Heritage College, which was created by the Ohio Legislature in 1975, and is the only institution in the state accredited to educate osteopathic physicians.

The Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine is a leader in training dedicated primary care physicians who are prepared to address the most pervasive medical needs in the state and the nation. Approximately 50 percent of Heritage College alumni practice in primary care and nearly 60 percent practice in Ohio.

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# Lakewood Schools

## Harding Students' Work Honored

by Christine Gordillo

Several sixth graders from Kevin Spooner's class at Harding Middle School earned honors recently for their outstanding work.

Six students earned recognition for their position papers as part of the Jr. Model UN Spring Conference, which was held virtually. Conference officials said all the students' work was "really high quality...and they were full of new ideas." The following students and their work were honored with best position paper in their category:

- United Nations Environment Program:**
- The Philippines:** Alessio Matera & Ursula Rosen
- Human Rights Council:**
- France:** Maya Trempe & Rhea Tabor
- World Health Organization:**
- Spain:** Zachary Carnovale & Rian Fetting

Congratulations to these students and their advisers, Kevin Spooner and Donna Tomlin.

Students Ella Clasen and Audrey McNulty both had their poetry selected to be published by Creative Communications in a hard-bound anthology of students' poetry from across the nation. Creative Communications has helped to inspire and encourage student writers with their national writing contests for over 20 years.

The selected poems:

### Where I'm From

By Ella Clasen

I am from crumbled sketchbooks and broken crayons  
I am from the crooked treehouse  
That smelled of moss and sawdust  
From skits we conducted ourselves  
I am from the spicy smell of latkes and fresh apple pie  
From Ms. O. saying "Be more specific"  
And Mrs. B. starting a quiet game,  
Just to complain about the silence  
I am from true friends  
From Amaiya being her over-enthusiastic self  
And Reese keeping her under control  
(At least, attempting to)  
From Mateo driving everyone insane  
And Amelia being...Amelia  
I am from soccer games in the yard  
And daydreaming in window sills  
From playing dreidel and betting gelt  
And from afternoons of poker  
(No chips, we used pineapple scented  
markers and strawberry taffy)  
I am from those memories

### New School

By Audrey McNulty

Going to a different school  
Will not make you blue  
It could make you smarter  
And make you work harder  
Although it might be your first day  
You'll still find a way  
You will get in sticky situations  
And learn new locker combinations  
You will play sports  
On all new courts  
Going to a new school is a choice that is bold  
But you never know what your future will hold



Audrey Warren's winning art piece.

## Students Earn Top Awards In Beck/Rotary Contest

by Christine Gordillo

Congratulations to all the talented students and their teachers!

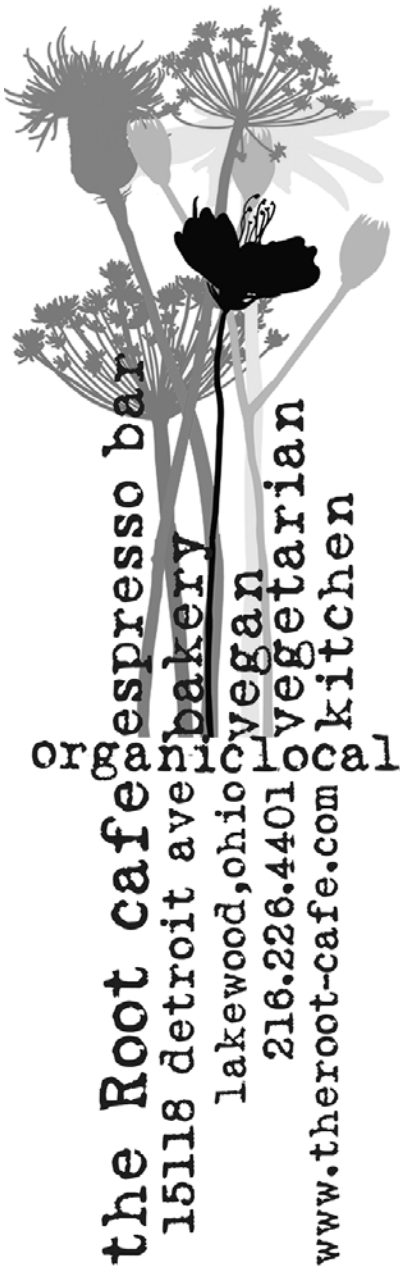
Lakewood High students were the top award-winners in the 75th annual Rotary Club of Lakewood & Rocky River Speech, Music, and Visual Arts Contests sponsored by Beck Center for the Arts. Lakewood students Audrey Warren (far left) was awarded first place in the Visual Arts category and Katie Spilsbury earned the top spot in the Speech contest, in which LHS students captured the top five places.

Contest participants are students from the five Lakewood and Rocky River high schools including Lakewood High School, Lutheran High School West, Magnificat High School, Rocky River High School, and St. Edward High School. In Visual Arts, awards are given for first through third place and then Honorable Mentions are awarded at the judges' discretion for the music and visual arts categories. The speech contestants earned first through fifth places. The place winners were all awarded cash prizes of varying amounts.

The music portion of the contest was unfortunately canceled due to the stay-at-home order. The Speech contest was based on judging from the preliminary round, which took place before the order.

In addition to Audrey and Katie's top awards, the following students also earned recognition:

- Mohammed Manaa**, 2nd place, Speech
- Kate Healy**, 3rd place, Speech
- Jennifer Ngo**, 3rd place, Visual Arts
- Sara Jarecke**, 4th place, Speech
- Madelyn Tumbleson**, 5th place, Speech
- Sara Corbin**, Honorable Mention, Visual Arts



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# Lakewood Authors

## A Conversation With Scott MacGregor And Gary Dumm

by Jim O'Bryan

(The following is a discussion with Lakewood author, Scott MacGregor and Cleveland artist, Gary Dumm, the creators of a new graphic novel, "Fire On The Water." A Cleveland story, the graphic novel is about the sacrifices and lives lost building Cleveland's water delivery infrastructure-specifically the deadly creation of man-made water tunnels underneath Lake Erie. Scott and Gary discuss what the book is about and the creative processes that went into making it. "Fire On The Water" is available everywhere. Please consider buying a copy from your nearest independent bookseller. They need the business!!)



Scott MacGregor, who also writes LO's "The Rockport Miracles."

**Scott:** The experience of writing this story began with the recollection of childhood memories. Cleveland is an Eastside/Westside kind of town and I grew up on the West side. We'd pile into the car on special occasions and drive to the Eastside to visit my grandmother or some other relation. I was always on the lookout on the way over to see certain landmarks that I loved seeing; like the Terminal Tower and the huge, animated Dairymen's Milk Bottle sign that sat on the Westinghouse curve. Going to and coming back from the East Side, I'd always looked out in the Lake and I saw this little structure out there. It was some little round thing that looked like a boat but was really a "Lake Crib" where all of our water came from. After I'd learned that my great grandfather had once worked on it, I'd felt very proud.

**Gary:** The story on Fire On the Water inspired me to take on this really huge project. I'd worked on "American Splendor" with Harvey Pekar for a number of years, but this was inspiring to me...the idea of simple ordinary men, unsung heroes, who were trying to do a job just to feed their families.

**Scott:** Cleveland is one of those Great American cities that grew up during the second industrial revolution personalized by self-made tycoons. The smoke belching industries that they created had polluted the air and water around Cleveland with impunity. By the late 1880s the mayor of Cleveland had declared the Cuyahoga River to be an "open sewer" and it was contaminated with all sorts of matter that used to clump together in the middle of the River and catch fire. Not just once, either. The river has actually caught fire over a dozen times since the 1860s.



Gary Dumm and Scott MacGregor reenact the thousands of hours they had working on this amazing piece of art and story telling.

**Gary:** The more things change the more they seem to stay the same. Those workers over 100 years ago descended into the tunnels wearing "wet rags" or bandanas across their faces to protect them from the pockets of natural gas. Now we have to do the same or similar against the coronavirus.

**Scott:** By 1916, effective pollution protections were decades away and Cleveland's industries along the River and elsewhere were not about to stop polluting. Instead municipal visionaries decided to extend by several miles existing East and West side water tunnels underneath Lake Erie and far enough away to avoid direct contamination from the raw sewage flowing down the Cuyahoga River. It's the building of those tunnels and the cost in human life it took to build them that is the central to the story of "Fire On The Water."

**Gary:** Some say there's something in the water but there's a strong connection to this city for me and for Scott. We think that Cleveland is central to our creative abilities and the source of our creativity.

**Scott:** I'd been recuperating from surgery when Gary rang me up and suggested that I use the downtime to outline one of my many story ideas and then propose it to Cuyahoga Arts and Culture who were awarding competitive grants to local artists in the region. I took Gary's suggestion and ultimately was awarded the Creative Fellowship grant. That money was used entirely to finance the creation of the graphic novel.

**Gary:** After about 3 1/2 years of working on our graphic novel, I was diagnosed with stage four throat cancer. I went through surgery and treatment and with the help of my wife Laura came out OK on the other side but, I felt old and weak, and was minus my voicebox, one jugular vein and a thyroid gland that was fried from radiation. Still, I was very much anxious to get back to work ASAP and so I did and finished the book. Life's an adventure, isn't it?

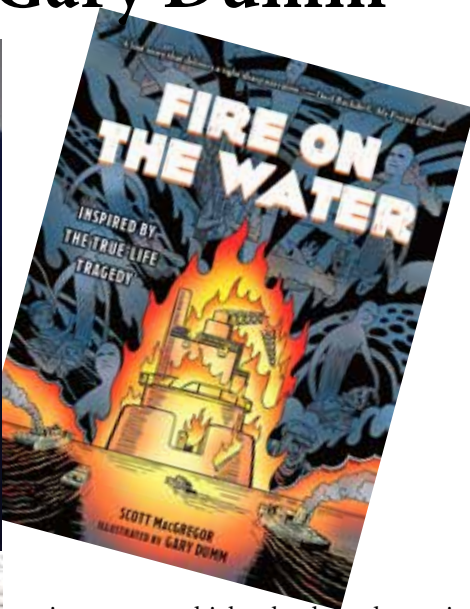
**Scott:** The book also features a fictionalized account of the African-American inventor and Cleveland hero, the late Garrett Morgan and his historic night in the #5 Crib tunnel. The com-



Gary Dumm, the living legend of graphic novels and comic book illustration.

elling story of Morgan's fateful night on the crib and the intertwining stories of the tunnel workers is what inspired me to write, "Fire On the Water" and, I think the same inspiration rubbed off on Gary Dumm because, he did it one hell of a job drawing it.

**Gary:** Doing this book taught me really what was possible. I'd worked on graphic novels before with Harvey Pekar and in association with Paul Buhle. and some of them were definitely a lesson in perseverance. Fire On the Water took



it to an even higher level and again I'm happy that we were able to persevere, get the book finished, found an agent, found a publisher for it (AbramsComi-cArts) and now the book is getting out into the world...yes indeed!

**Scott:** The graphic novel is 278 pages long and includes an addendum about Garrett Morgan, his life, and what really happened on the hot July night in 1916 when he and his brother Frank sailed out to the crib #5 platform to save lives. All of Gary Dumm's artwork has been painstakingly colorized in grayscale which gives added visual depth to a story that takes you deep into the tunnels under Lake Erie with those desperate men struggling to make a buck performing work so dangerous, there's a constant risk that they won't survive the day.

**Gary:** Still, I'd like to think that those who did survive found this place called Cleveland a good place to live and work. This city sits alongside a Great Lake and it is our most precious natural resource - so let's not take it for granted!

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# Lakewood Victory Gardens

## Pests In Your Garden *Lakewood's Victory Gardens, Part 3*

by Paul Bilyk

A woman approached the check-out at the garden center last week and asked if there was anything we offered that would successfully repel squirrels from her vegetable garden. Another lady, six feet away at the closest, chimed in, “You know how we got rid of them at our church?”

“No Ma’am, how?” I inquired wondering where this was going.

“We made them members, now they only show up on Christmas and Easter,” she answered as the room broke into laughter.

If you have fought critters in your vegetable garden, you understand how maddening it can be getting to harvest. The suburban garden is under relentless attack by the animals and insects around it as well as the families that grow them. Properly preparing for such an invasion can save hours of frustration and countless profanities.

Squirrels are consistently the pest we seem to be helping customers fight off at the shop. Although we have tried numerous approaches over the years, the best defense against squirrels is always an enclosure. Some sort of frame with a chicken wire wrap is the best defense. In our own experience a combination of repellants paired with aromatic herbs around the edge of the garden has been the most effective approach. One approach we are excited to test this year is hanging Christmas ornaments on tomato plants that have

yet to fruit. The idea is to use a red ornament in the shape of a tomato, the squirrel comes to claim its prize and finds out this tomato is not appetizing and avoids your plants for the duration of the season.

Deer can be amongst the most devastating animals to the home garden. Commonly referred to as overgrown rodents these pests come out of the valley, travelling the train tracks or the lakefront to wreak havoc on the landscape. As with squirrels the best defense is an enclosure. If your garden is large enough, you should consider at minimum a 6’ fence, however 10’ is best. If you are unable to use such a fence, we have had good results using feather meal to keep them away from crops. Deer are creatures of habit and trust their noses more than their eyes. Aromatic plants will work to some degree with deer although a hybrid approach is still best. If you can find a repellant that they do not like the smell of, you will have a better chance. A new tactic we will use this year is a scarecrow that we will move around the garden to keep them guessing.

Birds can be an issue for those who grow berries. Netting usually eliminates this threat, however we suggest that you make your netting visible by attaching ribbon or streamers to it so birds can see that it is there and avoid it. Removing birds from tangled netting can be a daunting task. Many farms use predator decoys to deter

birds and other small animals from their crops. A well-placed plastic owl can work wonders.

However you decide to fight the pests in your garden this season, make sure that your approach is proactive. Allowing animals to find out that they like the same foods as you will make keeping them out harder. Our offensive this year will be multi-faceted and is already underway. After we prepped our beds, I sprinkled them with bone meal and blood meal. Both products are fertilizers that are known to have some repellant qualities. The garden has also been fenced off. I am considering a roof of chicken wire that will be poorly attached to from fence to fence. Racoons and squirrels are less likely to

climb an unstable structure. Around the perimeter of the garden we will plant the aromatic herbs such as lavender, rosemary, and thyme. We will add marigolds here and there, while they repel, they also attract pollinators. In situations where they are compatible, we’ll use garlic and onions as under plantings, especially around our tomatoes.

Regardless of what you grow, something will be coming to eat it. Be prepared. Be proactive. Be well.

*Paul and his wife Jenna own Lakewood Garden Center at 13230 Detroit Avenue. In the coming months we will be working with Lakewood Garden Center and Lakewood Hardware (16608 Madison Avenue) with helping us all build COVID-19 Victory Gardens.*

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Perspectives

Feverish:

Reviews Of Recent Releases By Local Bands, Pt. 104

by Buzz Kompier

Glenn Schwartz Four - Glenn Schwartz Four - not on label - 8 songs - LP

Alright, so the story with this one is that it's the late Glenn Schwartz and several of his students and kind of functions as a showcase of the styles they played. There's a lot of undeniably good guitar playing on this thing— and Glenn taught these guys well, because a lot of the time you can't even tell when it's Glenn and when it's not. Generally, all the songs are in the blues rock realm, and with the exception of "I'm So Glad," are all instrumentals. Some ("Water Street," "Fear N Doom") are in a more psychedelic style, some are more traditional ("Hound Dog"). Personally, I prefer the former. I don't really spend a lot of time listening to this kind of thing, but those who do (and, obviously, Glenn Schwartz fans in particular) will like this. And again, unquestionably good guitar all over the place here. 3/5

(try a local record store?)

Xanny Stars - What Next? - self-released - 8 songs - cassette, digital

This is the debut release by Xanny Stars, who play a kind of hooky pop-punk/indie rock mix— almost in the same area as The Missed (with whom they share a member, Mickey), but slightly more towards the indie rock side than that band. It's decent stuff; they pull off both sides of their style pretty well— the power pop of "Make Up Your Mind" or the alternative stylings of "Spinning." There are good, catchy songs on here for sure. My issue is with the mix: I'm not quite sure what it is about it, but it just doesn't pop at all. Which is kinda weird, since Paul Maccarone recorded this and he definitely knows how to make things sound better than this, so maybe it was the choice of the band to have it sound this way? Maybe it was just laziness? Not sure, but since (as I understand it) this is essentially a demo anyway, there's room for improvement. The vocals at times are murmur to the point of being unintelligible, but that one I'm pretty sure is a stylistic choice— Xanny Stars would not be the first or the last to do this. Overall, a decent tape, good songs, worth checking out an up-and-coming local group and all that. 3.5/5

(xannystars.bandcamp.com)

Are you a local-ish band? Do you have a record out? Email vaguelythreatening@gmail.com or send it directly to the Observer: PO Box 770203, Lakewood, OH 44107.

Mama Mia! Here We Go Again! Reeling In Another Election Year

by Adelaide Crnko

With COVID-19 dominating the news cycle, we should not forget that before it all began the 2020 presidential election was THE ongoing story. It went from the Democratic debates to now wondering how we will be able to vote. Given the gravity of what has recently transpired, here is a light-hearted reminder of the upcoming contest brought to you via song titles (and a few lyrics) from the 1970's! See how many are woven into the narrative.

The year began with aspiring Democratic candidates asking voters to "take a chance on me." Their supporters responded with "you're the one that I want." The contenders included more than one American woman, the new kid in town and those in their golden years. They all claimed to be a bridge over troubled water and offered ideas on how each of us can get a piece of the American pie.

They did their own version of the hustle in between all the jive talkin'. Some made it a point to take it to the limit with their rhetoric, at the same time knowing they got to be real. The hope was to keep stayin' alive lest their campaigns became dust in the wind. As their dreams began slip slidin' away, their followers reassured them we are still "hopelessly devoted to you." Privately, their staff wondered whether soon enough they would be working at the car wash. Ultimately, they had to resolve to let it be.

Those who remain promise "you ain't seen nothing yet." Yet, many old timers long for the way we were. As citizens look at the candidates more closely, the resolve among the populace is we won't be fooled again. In these troubled times, Americans want someone who is rock steady and will not rock the boat. Many folks are running on empty and want to make sure the person speaking to them from the rose garden understands their needs.

Covering the debates and primaries, network commentators may have sighed, "help me make it through the night," some even still at it the morning after.

When it comes to running for public office, everyone knows it don't come easy. Some were busy takin' it to the streets in an attempt to grab voters, also appealing to them to give a little bit by visiting their dot com site. As they attempted to raise money, wouldn't another way to have gained exposure have been to just land on the cover of the "Rolling Stone"?

Accusations and barbs filled the air at Democratic and GOP rallies creating so much bad blood. The current president seems to believe many in this country are gypsies, tramps and thieves. His constituents may regard a female seeking the nomination as another evil woman. The Democrats call the incumbent a liar and suggest he is as credible as Disco Duck. Another accusation may be "you're so vain" (you probably think this tweet is about you, don't you, don't you!). Those on the Right are viewed as only worried about takin' care of business while others feel the Left too often wants to give everyone a free ride.

While the Chief Executive frequently retreats to his beloved Mara Lago, West Coast liberals check into the Hotel California. Both sides have disdain for what the others say, suggesting that the way their supporters swear by each candidate's message is "what a fool believes."

As debate moderators recycle the same questions, other world events slide under the radar, one being the bungle in the jungle that is the burning of the Amazon. As far as global warming and climate change, many feel it's

Lakewood Councilman is "Out Of Touch"

by Norm Schultz

The Lake Erie Marine Trades Association has called Lakewood City Councilman, Tom Bullock, “obviously out of touch” for his recent claims that building wind turbines in Lake Erie has great support.

“In his recent letter to the Ohio Power Siting Board,” explains LEMTA president emeritus Norm Schultz, “Councilman Bullock cites having 27 signers from 17 local governments and 16 communities joining together in favor of building turbines in the lake. What he chooses to ignore is the more than 8,500 signatures opposing this industrialization of the lake until a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is undertaken and submitted to the OPSB.

“Bullock should oppose OPSB issuing any permit to build without accessing the full impact on Ohio’s most precious natural resource, and that has yet to be done,” Schultz emphasizes.

“Bullock’s claims simply don’t hold water,” says Schultz. “He is echoing assertions by LEEDCo’s president, David P. Karpinski, that Icebreaker will create more than 500 jobs. That’s pure hype! We already know Block Island’s initial claim that their offshore installation would create hundreds of jobs has, in fact, resulted in less than 10 permanent positions.”

More specifically, according to LEEDCo’s own consultant’s study (document DOE/EA-2045) Icebreaker could generate 159 temporary onsite construction jobs for local workers. An additional 187 “highly specialized workers would come from outside of the area and would remain only for the duration of the construction.” That report concludes Icebreaker could create just 9 permanent jobs.

Even more misleading is Bullock’s support of LEEDCo’s current effort to “sell” Icebreaker as just six turbines offshore of Cleveland. Schultz contends earlier statements tell the hidden story of intent. Karpinski has stated: “Our vision is 5,000 megawatts over the next 10 to 15 years. Doing the math for how much each turbine can generate, that would require installing about 1,600 wind turbines in the lake.”

While such overblown employment claims stand out, the real missing assessment is environmental, claims Schultz.

First, recognizing that Lake Erie is the drinking water supply for an estimated 12 million people makes the need for a full EIS a no brainer. LEEDCo’s permit application before OPSB includes only a weak environmental assessment from a paid consultant they hired to support their application. It falls far short of need says Schultz.

There must be a full study of problems that could come from the turbine installations and the miles of underwater transmission cables that will likely release decades of carcinogens and heavy metals that have accumulated on the lake bottom from a century of dredging the Cuyahoga River. In addition, there is an expectation that fires which regularly occur in wind turbines could each dump 440 gallons of oils and chemicals inside each turbine into the lake waters.

Because there has not been, to date, an Environmental Impact Study required, the Black Swamp Bird Observatory of Ohio and the American Bird Conservancy have filed suit against the U.S. Department of Energy and the Army Corps of Engineers. The suit accuses them of failing to order the proper EIS as required by both the National Environmental Policy and Clean Water acts.

It’s notable that in 2011, Ontario, Canada, imposed a Great Lakes moratorium on turbines for many of the same concerns about the impact of turbines. The moratorium is still in effect today because of the inability to adequately address or mitigate similar environmental concerns, particularly with respect to drinking water quality.

Thus far, LEEDCo has reportedly secured many state and federal permits needed to construct and operate Icebreaker with one key exception: the OPSB’s Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need.

The unanswered questions about Icebreaker’s environmental and economic impact are clear reasons for the OPSB to meet its mandated responsibility to all Ohioans and require the needed EIS before giving any further consideration of LEEDCo’s permit application.

Karpinski has stressed the importance of the OPSB members hearing directly from stakeholders throughout Northeast Ohio. In response, Schultz is urging all concerned about Lake Erie’s future and the need for a full EIS to voice those concerns in emails at: [www.opsb.Ohio.Gov](mailto:www.opsb.Ohio.Gov) and hit the Contact Us link. Always refer to: Case Number:16-1871-EL-BGN: Icebreaker, Lake Erie.



LakewoodAlive

# Lakewood Summer Meltdown Rescheduled For August 8

by Matt Bixenstine

In an effort to ensure health and safety for members of our community, LakewoodAlive announces the rescheduling of Lakewood Summer Meltdown 2020 for Saturday, August 8, from 4 to 10 p.m. in Downtown Lakewood.

Sponsored by Melt Bar and Grilled, the Summer Meltdown represents one of the region’s most anticipated street parties. Now in its 11th year, this annual celebration of our city’s vibrancy draws attendees from across Northeast Ohio to the heart of Lakewood each summer, and typically takes place the second Saturday of July.

When the Summer Meltdown returns on August 8, this “something for everyone” festival will still offer a variety of family-friendly recreation and celebration opportunities. However, this free community event will likely look significantly different from past Summer Meltdowns as LakewoodAlive takes special precautions to ensure health and safety in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. LakewoodAlive will follow all directives from the Ohio Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization as we prepare for the Summer Meltdown.

“Ultimately, ensuring the well-

being of everyone involved in the Summer Meltdown – attendees, volunteers, vendors and staff – is our foremost concern,” said Ian Andrews, Executive Director of LakewoodAlive. “We are pleased to be able to reschedule the Summer Meltdown for August 8, and are appreciative of our partners at the City of Lakewood for helping to make this new date possible.”

More details regarding Lakewood Summer Meltdown 2020 – including vendor opportunities and the schedule of events – will be unveiled in the coming weeks. For ongoing updates, please visit [LakewoodAlive.org/Meltdown](http://LakewoodAlive.org/Meltdown).

The Lakewood Summer Meltdown is generously supported by the following sponsors:

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## LakewoodAlive To Host “Knowing Your Home: Universal Design” Virtual Workshop On June 11

by Matt Bixenstine

There’s a growing movement within our society toward realizing better universal design in our homes, and now is your chance to learn more about this quality of life concept.

LakewoodAlive will host Knowing Your Home: Universal Design on Thursday, June 11, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. as a virtual workshop. The seventh workshop of 2020 for this popular home maintenance educational series will cover how to incorporate the seven principles of universal design into your home.

Led by our friends at Maximum Accessible Housing of Ohio, this unique workshop will offer clear examples of features you can add and improvements you can make to increase the accessibility and safety of your home so that people of all ages can enjoy it.

Universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the great-

est extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. Because of universal design, people in all stages of life can all enjoy the same home, and that home will be there for all its inhabitants even when their needs change.

To reserve your free spot for our “Knowing Your Home: Universal Design” virtual workshop, visit [LakewoodAlive.org/UniversalDesign](http://LakewoodAlive.org/UniversalDesign) or call 216-521-0655.

Now in its seventh year, LakewoodAlive’s “Knowing Your Home” series draws hundreds of attendees annually. Visit [LakewoodAlive.org/KnowingYourHome](http://LakewoodAlive.org/KnowingYourHome) to learn more. Our workshop series is generously supported by: City of Lakewood, Cleveland Lumber Company and First Federal Lakewood.

In lieu of charging for these events, we are asking participants to consider making a donation to LakewoodAlive or Lakewood Community Services Center. We appreciate your support.

## LA Pursuing Historic District Designation For Stretch Of Detroit Avenue

continued from page 1

their historical significance.

Established as a financial incentive tool, buildings in the district that are deemed historic are eligible for state and/or federal historic tax credits to facilitate financing for renovations. Should a building owner seek to avoid oversight from OHPO for renovations, they would simply not apply for the tax credits and follow the rules already in place by the City of Lakewood.

The Downtown Lakewood Historic District will extend from near Bunts Road to mid-way between Hall and Ethel Avenues along Detroit Avenue, as well as along Warren Road from Detroit to nearly Franklin Boulevard. The district will also include a number of apartment buildings located very

close to Detroit Avenue on side streets.

Following a Public Information Meeting held virtually on May 14, the next step will be a review of the nomination by the Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board on June 19, 2020, followed by a National Park Service review.

The Downtown Lakewood Historic District project is sponsored by LakewoodAlive, with support from the City of Lakewood and the Ohio Development Services Agency.

*Matt Bixenstine is the Marketing & Development Manager for LakewoodAlive. He enjoys all things Lakewood, especially walking his basset hound through Madison Park.*

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# Spilled Ink

## Cuyahoga County Coronavirus Response Update

continued from page 1

we have been able to reduce the population in the County jail by almost half, from about 1900 to about 1000, particularly by releasing people to remain at home while awaiting trial. This has allowed us to properly isolate inmates and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been exposed.

We are doing testing, contact tracing, and isolation with all of these congregate settings as cases of COVID-19 arise. The County recently found an additional source of testing materials and is purchasing \$5 million worth of testing equipment which will allow us to do more testing with these high risk populations. This should particularly help with the homeless population, where we are currently doing primarily medical screening, rather than actual testing, which is a weakness in our current program.

The average number of new cases and new fatalities per day appears to have leveled off in Cuyahoga County at this time; however, we are not yet in a clear downtrend, and as the economy starts to reopen, the risk of a return to higher coronavirus activity remains high.

### County Starts to Re-open for Business

Following Governor DeWine's direction, the County is gradually starting to reopen for business. His plan allowed elective medical procedures not requiring an overnight stay and dental services to reopen on May 1. General offices, distribution facilities, and manufacturing resumed on May 4, and they will be followed by most retail business on May 12th. Hair salons and other personal care

services will be allowed to reopen on May 15th. Restaurants and bars will be allowed to reopen for outdoor service on May 15th and indoor service on May 21st. Schools, day care centers, indoor theatres, gyms, and any large public events remain closed. Facilities that reopen are required to follow strict social distancing and sanitizing procedures. Wearing masks is required for all employees, with a few exceptions where impractical, and is strongly recommended for customers.

Since the coronavirus remains prevalent in Ohio and Cuyahoga County, both in terms of new cases and fatalities, I believe the reopening is probably a little too early. However, much more important than debating the exact timing of re-opening is emphasizing how important it is for everyone to be very diligent about coronavirus safety as they start to become more socially and economically active. The most important safety measure is social distancing—staying at least six feet apart from other people, followed by wearing masks, frequent and thorough hand-washing, not touching one's face, and sanitizing frequently touched surfaces.

I do strongly recommend wearing a mask, whenever one may come in contact with other people, but it is important to remember that wearing a mask does not replace social distancing. The best protection is to practice strict social distancing and to also wear a mask to obtain some additional protection when close contact could not be avoided. In addition to providing some additional self-protection, wearing a mask is even more important to prevent spread of COVID-19 to others. For me, the principle that rises above

all others, is to do everything possible to protect both myself and others from COVID-19. Even people who are young and strong and unlikely to become seriously ill can easily spread COVID-19 to family members, friends, and people they don't even know who may become seriously ill or die from it. We all must pay as much or more attention to making sure we don't spread it to others as we do protecting ourselves.

As we start to reopen and have more choices about social, recreational, and economic activities, I strongly recommend that everyone be very selective about what activities they participate in. This is especially true for those at risk, which are people over 65 and people with medical problems, but it applies to everyone because of the risk of infecting others. It appears that the likelihood of getting infected depends on the viral load, that is, the amount and severity of exposure. If you are exposed to one or a few passing contacts with infected persons, you may be able to fight it off, but if exposed in a more sustained way or in multiple events on the same day, you probably won't be so lucky. So just because you are now allowed to go to a restaurant or a birthday party doesn't mean you should. Everyone should work hard at being able to do the things they have to do and some things they desire to do while at the same time effectively keeping potential exposure to an absolute minimum.

I am currently focusing on helping ensure that the County has a complete, well-connected program of testing, contact tracing, and isolation in place. This is especially important as the county starts to reopen for business and social activity. All three elements must be available and operating in coordination with each other for us to be successful in preventing spread of COVID-19.

### County Providing Assistance to Local Businesses

The County is also very active in assisting local business to get through the economic aspects of the crisis. The County has opened up a Small Business Resource Center to help small businesses access available assistance. The Resource Center is available at 216-452-9714 on Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 AM.

The County is helping small businesses get through the crisis in two ways. The first is to help them access state and federal assistance, especially the two main federal programs specifically responding to the crisis, the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL), which both offer grants as well as loans.

The second is that the County, in partnership with the Economic Community Development Institute (ECDI), Jump Start, and the Cleveland Foundation is running its own program,

making stabilization grants of \$2,500 to \$5,000 to small businesses to help them get through the crisis and stay in business. In the first round, the County made grants of \$2,500 each to 200 businesses including 3 from Lakewood. Applications were taken through May 15th for a second round and are now being processed. The second round was targeted for the smallest business, those with 25 employees or less, many of which may not be able to access the federal programs.

### County's Role in Helping People Get through the Economic and Social Crisis

Besides our efforts at preventing the spread of coronavirus, the County is also heavily involved in helping people get through the economic and social aspects of the crisis. One very significant area is that our office of Jobs and Family Services helps people navigate the unemployment application process. I have been able to help some constituents get through this process and get their benefits and will continue to do so. The County's mental health and addiction programs and child welfare services are also very important in helping people cope with the additional stress produced by the COVID-19 crisis.

### County Financial Impacts

Our primary focus is on saving lives and keeping people healthy, and our secondary focus is on helping businesses and people survive the economic impacts of the crisis; however, the crisis will also have a severe impact on the County's finances. Sales tax revenue, which will decline steeply during the crisis, accounts for about 60% of the County's General Fund revenue. As Chairman of the County's Finance & Budgeting Committee, dealing with the financial impacts will be an important responsibility for me. We are starting to gather information on the impact and prepare a response. My primary goals are to get us through the crisis while maintaining basic services, avoiding layoffs, and not raising taxes. Whether we can accomplish that goal will depend extensively on the nature of federal assistance. If the Federal Government increases flexibility and allows us to use some of their assistance to replace lost revenue, we will be able to avoid the most severe consequences. If they do not, we will have a much more difficult time. The County received \$215 million in federal assistance but under current restrictions, we will not be able to use most of it. We and state and local governments across the country are lobbying hard for more flexibility. Stay tuned.

While I am working from home so that I do not get or spread COVID-19, I am ready and willing to help any of my constituents. Please contact me at [damiller@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:damiller@cuyahogacounty.us) or 216-252-7827 if I can help.

*Dale Miller is the County Councilperson for the 2nd County Council District, representing Lakewood, Brook Park, and the West Park area of Cleveland. He is the Chairperson of the Finance & Budgeting Committee.*

## COVID-19 From A Child's Viewpoint

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is denied, we must find other ways. As I expressed earlier, people are calling and meeting online now.

Personally, I go to peer's houses and have conversations with them from six or more feet away. This connection isn't the same as it was, but these connections will be at some point in time.

One thing that you can do to stay busy is creating art as an outlet and expressing your feelings through it. You could also write letters, play instruments, scrapbook, and have a lot of fun in other ways than what you're used to. You can take this time to meditate and reflect to become a better person, or take online classes to keep busy.

Another way to stay busy is spending time with your family. I have been having family game nights, which is a great way to connect with your family, and have fun. My family is also planning on watching plays that are available online, and we even enjoy

cleaning the house!

There has been a change in the community of Lakewood because of this illness, and it isn't the fact that people wear masks, or stay six feet apart, it's spreading kindness. People have been so nice in these times, and everyone should be. If you're reading this, you should know that anybody on the streets will feel better if you smile at them, or say "hi." People are missing interaction, so if you do these things, it will make them feel less alone, and help everyone realize that we're all in this situation together, whether we like it or not.

These times may be scary, but it will end eventually, and when it is over, everyone will be celebrating with family and friends, and the world will be strengthened from this experience.

Cole Hammer is in Kevin Spooner's ELA class at Harding Middle School, and wants to become a published author someday.



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